

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-28 are pending in the captioned application. Claims 18-28 are withdrawn. Claims 1-17 are finally rejected. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration in view of the following arguments.

Claims 1-3, 5-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Shadle et al. (US 5429746). Applicants respectfully disagree.

Applicants submit that Shadle et al. do not disclose any contacting step with a matrix in the presence of a nonionic polyether. The Examiner cites Shadle et al. Col. 2, lines 57-60 and Col. 7, lines 55-62, where ethylene and propylene glycol are mentioned. Ethylene glycol has the structure HO-CH₂-CH₂-OH and propylene glycol CH₃CH(OH)CH₂-OH. These difunctional alcohols are neither ethers nor polymers. Applicants assert that they cannot be interpreted as being polyethers. Thus, claims 1-3 and 5-17 are novel over Shadle et al.

Claim 4 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Shadle et al. in view of Bander et al. (US20040120958). Applicants respectfully disagree.

Shadle et al. disclose the isolation of compounds by multiple chromatographic steps, comprising affinity chromatography, ion exchange chromatography and hydrophobic interaction chromatography. It does not disclose any contacting with a matrix in the presence of a nonionic polyether and neither does it disclose two or more consecutive ion-exchange chromatography steps. There is no indication in Bander et al. that a nonionic polyether can be present during a chromatography step. Claim 4 is not rendered obvious over Shadle et al. in view of Bander et al.

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Applicants respectfully assert that the claims are in allowable form and earnestly solicit the allowance of the claims 1-17.

Early and favorable consideration is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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